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## United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY.

Drug-Plant and Poisonous-Plant Investigations,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

### PRINCIPAL POISONOUS PLANTS OF THE WESTERN STOCK RANGES.

By C. D. MARSH, *Physiologist*.

While poisonous plants cause heavy losses of live stock on the western ranges, nearly all these losses are produced by a comparatively small number of plants. It is true that the list of plants which may possibly cause loss is very large, but most of these plants are of very little practical importance.

It has been found as a matter of experience that while many stockmen recognize and avoid the plants which are likely to cause fatalities there are many others who do not know what plants to avoid. The names "loco," "larkspur," "parsnip," and others are used frequently in a very indefinite way. It is believed that a brief publication giving recognizable pictures of the plants and the essential facts in regard to their characteristics will aid the stockmen in avoiding losses.

Bulletins on some of the plants have already been published, and these should be consulted for detailed information. The object of this circular is simply to call attention in a definite way to the plants which it is most necessary to avoid.

Approved:

WM. A. TAYLOR,  
*Chief of Bureau.*

JULY 17, 1914.

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## **ZYGADENUS, DEATH CAMAS.**

**Height of plant.**—From 4 inches to 1½ feet.

**Color of flowers.**—Greenish yellow.

**Animals poisoned.**—Sheep, horses, and cattle. Especially dangerous to sheep.

**Symptoms.**—Frothing at the mouth, vomiting, trembling, sometimes spasmodic struggles for breath, great weakness, the animal sometimes lying 2 or 3 days before death. Death from respiratory paralysis.

**Part of plant poisonous.**—All parts. The seeds are especially poisonous.



ZYGADENUS, OR DEATH CAMAS.

## **LUPINE.**

**Height of plant.**—From 1 to 2 feet.

**Color of flowers.**—Light blue or blue violet.

**Animals poisoned.**—Sheep.

**Symptoms.**—Nervousness, weakness, partial paralysis, sleepiness, convulsions, death.

**Part of plant poisonous.**—Pods and seeds.

**Season when poisoning occurs.**—Late summer and fall.



LUPINE.

## **LOCO, WHITE LOCO, RATTLEWEED.**

[There are many locos. This is one of the worst.]

**Height of plant.**—From 6 inches to 1 foot.

**Color of flowers.**—White to shades of purple and pink.

**Animals poisoned.**—Horses, cattle, and sheep.

**Symptoms.**—Erratic movements, constipation, progressive emaciation. Effects are chronic, extending over a time varying from a few weeks to 2 or 3 years. Death ordinarily results from starvation, the animal ceasing to either eat or drink.

**Part of plant poisonous.**—All parts.

**Season when poisoning occurs.**—At any time of the year when feed is short.

**Remedy.**—Good food. Laxatives. Strychnine for cattle. Fowler's solution for horses.

See Bulletin 112, Bureau of Animal Industry, and Farmers' Bulletin 380.



LOCO, WHITE LOCO, OR RATTLEWEED.

## **TALL LARKSPUR.**

**Height of plant.**—From 3 to 7 feet.

**Color of flowers.**—Shades of violet blue and purple.

**Animals poisoned.**—Cattle.

**Symptoms.**—Repeated falling, accompanied with such weakness that for a variable period the animal is unable to rise. Staggering when up, spasmodic movements when down, constipation, nausea resulting in vomiting, and death from respiratory paralysis.

**Part of plant poisonous.**—All parts above the ground.

**Season when poisoning occurs.**—Mostly in spring and early summer. The plant loses its poisonous properties after blossoming.

**Remedy.**—Keep the animal still, with head uphill. Give hypodermic injections of eserine and whisky.

See Farmers' Bulletin 531.



TALL LARKSPUR.

## LOW LARKSPUR.

**Height of plant.**—From 6 inches to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

**Color of flowers.**—Shades of violet blue and purple.

**Animals poisoned.**—Cattle.

**Symptoms.**—Repeated falling, accompanied with such weakness that for a variable period the animal is unable to rise. Staggering when up, spasmodic movements when down, constipation, nausea resulting in vomiting, and death from respiratory paralysis.

**Part of plant poisonous.**—All parts above the ground.

**Season when poisoning occurs.**—Mostly in spring and early summer. The plant loses its poisonous properties after blossoming.

**Remedy.**—Keep the animal still, with head uphill. Give hypodermic injections of eserine and whisky.

See Farmers' Bulletin 531.



LOW LARKSPUR.

## **CICUTA, WATER HEMLOCK.**

[Sometimes called parsnip.]

**Height of plant.**—From 3 to 4 feet.

**Color of flowers.**—White.

**Animals poisoned.**—All higher animals, including man.

**Symptoms.**—Excessive frothing at the mouth, gnashing of teeth, pain, nausea, violent convulsions, and death.

**Part of plant poisonous.**—Root.

**Season when poisoning occurs.**—At any season, but most commonly in spring and early summer.

**Remedy.**—For domestic animals, none. For man, an emetic.

See Department Bulletin 69.



CICUTA, OR WATER HEMLOCK.





